

3
TRAINING AND USE OF PROJECT LEADERS
IN TEACHING TAILORING

Evelyn March, formerly home demonstration agent, Sutter County, Calif.

I. History

In response to scattered requests for tailoring in September 1945, ten leaders were trained in tailoring at a 3-day school. To meet general requests for tailoring at the program planning meeting in May 1946, tailoring was included in the year's program and calendared for February 1947.

In planning how this should be given, the choice was between four zoned 4-day schools to be given by the home demonstration agent or eleven community 4-day schools in complete charge of project leaders with the agent training the leaders. The latter plan was agreed upon by the project leaders and the agent, and was an experiment.

II. Project Leader Qualifications (P L's selected by home demonstration agent)

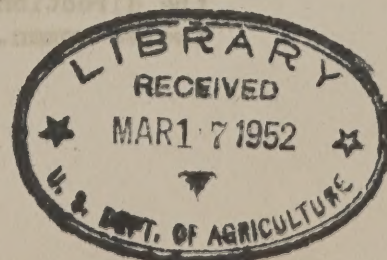
- A. Previous sewing experience.
- B. Enthusiastic, whole-hearted belief in the project.
- C. Recognized as leaders in their communities.
- D. Willing to take the time to give to this work.
- E. Willing to teach only recommended subject matter.

III. Ground Work

- A. Contacted project leaders previously trained as to willingness to teach in their own communities. Only one project leader for each community, who had full responsibility for teaching.
- B. Publicized the tailoring program in November and December.
- C. Conditions set up for enrolling in the tailoring project.
 1. Registration limited to women with previous sewing experience.
 2. Registration limited to ten women per group.
 3. Each registrant willing to meet for work 4 days, once each week in February.
 4. Each registrant to provide her own sewing machine.
 5. Each registrant to make a garment with lapels and collar, to learn fundamental tailoring procedure.
 6. Working place and day to suit the convenience of the project leader in charge.
 7. Each registrant to attend a county-wide pre-tailoring meeting in charge of the agent.
- D. Gave women opportunity to enroll in December.

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E. General January work meetings on Pressing Aids, in charge of tailoring project leader and one clothing leader per group.

1. 176 attended - 135 pressing hams made.

F. County-wide pre-tailoring meeting held in January.

1. Attendance checked against enrollments (75 of 81 enrolled).
2. Summarized plans for local group meetings.
3. Summarized schedule for project leader training.
4. Outlined equipment to be brought by each woman.
5. Outlined fabrics needed by each woman.

a. The agent provided a supply of pads, tape, and extra hymo.

6. Gave instructions for shrinkage.
7. Discussed type of pattern. To be a child's or woman's coat or jacket with notched collar.
8. Divided into groups with each project leader in charge of her group.

- a. Checked measurements.
- b. Determined pattern size.
- c. Arranged for meeting place and day.

IV. Training and Work Meetings in February

A. Each leader, eleven in all, attended an all-day training meeting once each week, given by the home demonstration agent.

B. The training was done in two groups, six in one and five in the other.

C. Definite step-by-step directions given for each day's work and for home work between work days. Circulars were provided by the home demonstration agent.

D. Each project leader made a garment under the direction of the home demonstration agent. This provided demonstration material to illustrate each day's work as it was taught to the women by the leader. This was refresher work for nine of the eleven leaders. One leader, previously trained, did not carry on because of illness. Two new leaders, not previously trained, did equally as good work as those previously trained.

E. Each leader met with her group one day each week for work, following the training meeting, and gave the same work that she had done under the direction of the agent. Groups ranged in size from two to twelve women. Completion was 100 percent.

V. Comparison of Time and Results Under HDA and PL's

<u>HDA in Charge</u>		<u>PL's in Charge</u>	
Possible number of zoned schools	4	Possible number of community schools	11
Possible number of women participating	40	Possible number of women participating	110
Required days	16	Actual number of women participating	73
Possible number of garments made	40	Required days:	
		By each PL	8
		By HDA	8
		Actual number of garments made	79

VI. Evidences of Continuing Leadership

- A. Every project leader expresses continued willingness to give individual help as tailoring leader in her community.
- B. Women who have just finished the work are giving instruction to others.
- C. A second group in one community is working under the direction of the project leader and the women in the first group.
- D. Several women are already working on a second or even third garment.

VII. Observations

- A. This information is now available in each community and can be a continuing project without additional time given by the home demonstration agent.
- B. Project leaders can do this type of teaching.
- C. Training should be done in small groups.
- D. Procedure should be carefully planned and definitely outlined.
- E. Conditions should be set up to contribute to successful results in highly specialized subjects.
- F. A project such as this, when given by a leader in the community, stimulates more interest and cooperation than when given by the home demonstration agent.
- G. Recognition of leaders, at achievement programs, through newspaper and radio publicity, reports at meetings and result demonstrations, should be a part of any plan for using project leaders.

